



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
AND PUBLIC MEETING  
INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM SITE 1  
NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL CENTRO**

The Department of the Navy (Navy) invites public review and comment on a Proposed Plan to address final closure of the Magazine Road Landfill at Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro. This landfill, also known as Installation Restoration (IR) Program Site 1, is located in the northwestern portion of NAF El Centro, along Magazine Road and Patrol Road. The Proposed Plan describes the Navy's preferred remedy (cleanup action) to prevent potential landfill contaminants from moving into and through groundwater and reaching surface water through a nearby drainage ditch. A landfill cap is already in place that has been designed to prevent contaminants from spreading through soil or into air. The Navy proposes to continue monitoring the groundwater in the area of IR Site 1, restricting irrigation of adjacent agricultural fields, continuing restrictions to protect the landfill cap currently in place, and lining the adjacent drainage ditch. This preferred remedy is proposed to further protect human health and the environment.

IR Site 1 covers about 6.8 acres and operated as a municipal landfill between 1965 and 1983. The waste was covered with about 24 inches of soil when the use of the landfill was discontinued in 1983. About 60 percent of the deposited waste consisted of household rubbish that was produced on base. The remaining wastes included construction debris and industrial wastes produced on base, such as paints, solvents, sandblasting grit, plating wastes, fuels, used oils, asbestos, batteries, and spent ammunition cartridges. A number of environmental studies were conducted at NAF El Centro and at IR Site 1 in the 1980s and 1990s. Results of these investigations indicated that low levels of fuel-related chemicals, metals, and volatile organic compounds were present in soil and groundwater at IR Site 1. In 1998 a cover was constructed over the landfill to reduce the possibility of exposing humans and wildlife to landfill wastes and to limit the possible movement of contaminants into the groundwater. The shallow groundwater beneath NAF El Centro is of generally poor quality and is not used as source of drinking water. However, to prevent the possibility that contaminated groundwater could reach the surface in a nearby drainage ditch, the Navy concluded that further action was needed at IR Site 1.

Four cleanup alternatives were developed for IR Site 1 and were fully evaluated using a list of federally required criteria for achieving overall protection of human health and the environment. The Navy proposes to implement the most protective of the four alternatives, although it will be more expensive and difficult to implement compared to the other three. The regulatory agencies -- California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board -- have reviewed the Navy's proposal and support the most protective alternative.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD  
SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2003**

The public is encouraged to comment on the Proposed Plan and supporting environmental documents for IR Site 1 during the 30-day public comment period. Written comments should be postmarked no later than October 8, 2003, and mailed to: **Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Code 5DEN.MG, Remedial Project Manager, SWDIV Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.**

The Proposed Plan for IR Site 1 and associated documents are available to the public for review at the NAF El Centro information repositories located at the **El Centro Public Library, 539 State Street, El Centro**, and the **Brawley Public Library, 400 Main Street, Brawley**. Documents may also be viewed at the Navy's Administrative Record File in San Diego. Please contact Ms. Diane Silva at (619) 532-3676 for information on obtaining access to the administrative record file.

**PUBLIC MEETING FOR IR SITE 1 PROPOSED PLAN  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2003, at 7:00 PM  
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT AUDITORIUM  
1285 BROADWAY, EL CENTRO**

This public meeting is being held to provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about the Navy's Proposed Plan for IR Site 1 and for the Navy to receive public comments on the proposed action. Everyone is welcome.